

# UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

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Friday, December 6, 2024

## Sometimes, it's hard to resist... - Part 3



<https://x.com/richlyons/status/1863224623535653093>  
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Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:25 AM No comments:      

Labels: UC-Berkeley

### Tales of FAFSA








We have been posting on and off about the FAFSA screw up of last year (hopefully corrected this year). Apparently, the screw up mattered. From [Inside Higher Ed](#):

*Enrollment of 18-year-old freshmen dropped 5 percent this fall compared to last, a reversal of gains made in 2023, according to a new data analysis released by the National College Attainment Network Monday. The special analysis, conducted by the National Student*

*Clearinghouse Research Center, was commissioned by NCAN in order to take an early look at first-year enrollment trends after the U.S. Department of Education's delayed rollout of last year's Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The new form, intended to simplify the financial aid process, was riddled with glitches that made it hard for many to complete and waylaid students' financial aid packages.*

*The analysis uses data from the end of October, covering about 80 percent of higher ed institutions and about 82.3 percent of students enrolled across the country. This year's steep drop in 18-year-old freshman enrollment contrasts sharply with the 3 percent enrollment bump the group experienced from 2022 to 2023. Enrollment fell for this demographic in 46 states this fall, with an average drop of 7.1 percent...*

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/admissions/traditional-age/2024/12/03/fewer-18-year-olds-enrolled-college-fall>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:      

Labels: enrollment

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Thursday, December 5, 2024

Bird Flu Worries at Davis



The [LA Times](#) recently carried a story concerning troubles at the UC-Davis lab that does testing for the state's efforts to deal with bird flu in cattle. Excerpt:

-The California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory, headquartered on the UC Davis campus, is key to the state's effort to track and prevent bird flu as it spreads through cattle herds and poultry farms. But the lab has been roiled over the past year by workplace tensions.

-Current and former employees say poor management caused an exodus of workers that left a skeletal crew struggling to keep

pace with testing demands, while creating an environment where mistakes are more likely.

...The Davis lab has been roiled over the past year by workplace tensions. Understaffing and poor management, Laxamana and other current and former employees say, have left lab employees overworked and struggling to keep pace with testing demands, while creating an environment where mistakes are more likely... The stakes for the lab are high: It is the only lab in the state with the authority to confirm bird flu cases. Although there is no evidence that the alleged workplace problems have contributed to an outbreak, processing tests quickly gives farmers a jump on quarantining or culling infected animals...

The problems come amid a rising tide of bird flu cases at poultry and dairy farms and an increasing threat to humans. Last week the Davis lab confirmed the virus had been found in a retail sample of raw milk from a Fresno-based dairy, which health officials warn may have been sold in stores in Los Angeles County. And, so far, about 30 people in the state — the vast majority of them dairy workers — are known to have been infected.





Bill Kisiuk, a spokesperson for UC Davis, denied that workplace issues have left the lab ill-equipped to handle bird flu testing. He said the facility has "maintained the supervision, staffing and resources necessary to provide timely and vital health and safety information to those asking us to perform tests throughout the current outbreak of avian flu."

After The Times inquired about staffing levels and other workplace issues, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services inspected the lab in October, while UC Davis officials hired more staff and got help from a lab in Wisconsin, according to current staff. UC Davis officials declined to confirm the moves...

The virus is taking a rising toll on the state's dairy and poultry industries. Since September, outbreaks at turkey farms, chicken broilers, egg-laying facilities and other producers around the state have affected more than 6 million birds, according to USDA data. And while the virus is less lethal in cows than birds, dead cows and calves have piled up along roadsides in Tulare County, with farmers and veterinarians reporting mortality rates far higher than expected. Also worrisome for a state that produces 20% of the country's milk is the steep drop-off in milk production farmers have reported among cows that recover from the flu.

Discontent over staffing, pay and other alleged workplace issues has pervaded the lab over the past two years, emails and other communications reviewed by The Times show...

Full story at <https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2024-12-01/lab-workers-conducting-californias-avian-flu-testing-report-mismanagement-overwork-burnout-amid-outbreak-season>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:    

Labels: [health care](#), [UC-Davis](#)

Sometimes, it's hard to resist... - Part 2

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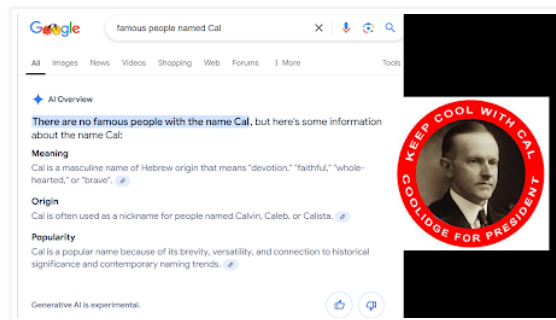
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As a sidenote, the Emeriti Association held its fall dinner meeting Tuesday night with the topic being the possibilities and dangers of artificial intelligence (AI). Here is what Google's AI had to say about Cal:



Coolidge might lose his cool if he read this evaluation of his fame.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:     

Labels: [politics](#), [UC-Berkeley](#)

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

### ♪Take Us Out of the Ball Game♪ - Part 8 (extension)







The stay related to a judge's ruling that UCLA's use of VA property for baseball was improper has been extended. From [Task & Purpose](#): *A federal judge's order for the Department of Veterans Affairs to build more than 2,500 new units of housing on its West Los Angeles campus has been put on hold for several months after an appeals court issued a stay.*

*The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals extended a previously granted temporary stay at the end of November. The appeals court set a hearing on the matter for April 2025, effectively halting any construction of new housing ordered by Carter until then at the absolute earliest.*

*The stay puts a stop, at least for the next several months, to federal district Judge David. O. Carter's ruling in a major lawsuit against the VA brought by veterans and advocates for unhoused veterans. In September, Carter ruled that the VA "has not made good on its promise to build housing for veterans." He ordered the Department of Veterans Affairs to build 1,800 new supportive housing units on its large campus in West Los Angeles, as well as 750 temporary housing units within a year to 18 months on the site in order to immediately get unhoused veterans into shelter...*

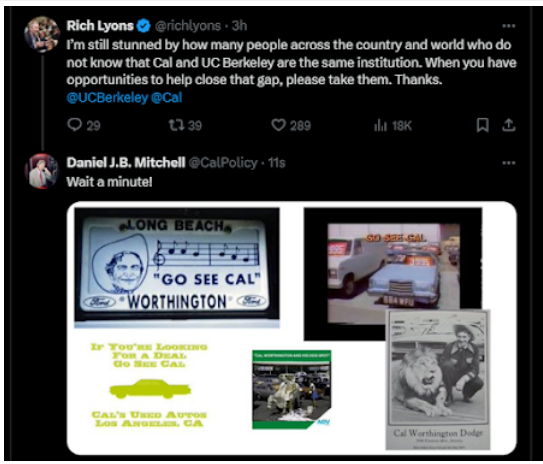
Full story at <https://taskandpurpose.com/military-life/homeless-veterans-los-angeles-court-halted/>.









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Labels: [athlet](#), [UCLA](#)

Sometimes, it's hard to resist...



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<https://x.com/CalPolicy/status/1863276766229410201>

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:15 AM No comments:      

Labels: [UC-Berkeley](#)

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Watch the Afternoon Regents Meeting of Nov. 13, 2024

We (finally) conclude our coverage of the November Regents meeting with the afternoon of November 13th which included sessions of the Governance Committee, Compliance and Audit, Public Engagement and Development, and the Special Committee on Athletics.

Governance approved pay and position for a VP of PR and then turned its attention to diversity in executive hiring. It was reported that 27% of such hiring involved "underrepresented groups" and 41% female. Concerns were expressed by some Regents on low rates of Latino hiring. Regent Perez said that the DEI statements used in such efforts were becoming "performative." A proposal to include disability within the definition of diversity as approved.

At Compliance and Audit, Regent Makarechian noted that the frequency of "corrective actions" in response to audits was increasing along with periods of noncompliance. Regent Cohen said that while he was pleased that compliance with training requirements had improved, he was concerned about deficiencies in compliance concerning cyber training. There was in contrast no discussion or (apparently) concern about fiscal audits.

At Public Engagement and Development concern was expressed at various points about the outcome of the election and the potential impact on undocumented students. UC reported



receiving across the system donations of \$3.45 billion of which \$1.8 billion came from foundations unrelated to alumni. The protests of last year were said to have a negative effect on philanthropy but specifics were not given. It was said that UC would be working with the legislature concerning budget cuts under the "compact." Finally, a presentation on wine research and teaching at UC-Davis was made. It was noted that the legislature had passed a "sip and spit" law allowing students in the program under 21 to sample the product. (Now there's something you probably didn't know!)

The Special Committee on Athletics heard reports on UC-Riverside and UC-Berkeley. The former reported a 6-year 92% graduation rate for student athletes. Berkeley reported 91%. Berkeley - after the tumult that followed UCLA's shift of athletic conferences - ended up in the ACC which entails considerable travel. But there was no aggressive questioning about the impact of such travel by Committee members. They were assured that nutrition and sleep support was being provided to athletes. The Committee met late in the day, which may have accounted for the lack of hard questions.

As always, we preserve recordings of Regents meetings since the Regents have no policy on duration of retention:

The general link for the afternoon of November 13 is:

<https://archive.org/details/regents-public-engagement-and-development-11-13-2024>.

Governance and Compliance & Audit are at:

<https://ia600606.us.archive.org/26/items/regents-public-engagement-and-development-11-13-2024/Regents%20Governance%20Committee%2C%20Compliance%20and%20Audit%2011-13-2024.mp4>.

Public Engagement and Development is at:

<https://ia800606.us.archive.org/26/items/regents-public-engagement-and-development-11-13-2024/Regents%20Public%20Engagement%20and%20Development%2011-13-2024.mp4>.

Athletics is at:

<https://ia800606.us.archive.org/26/items/regents-public-engagement-and-development-11-13-2024/Regents%20Special%20Committee%20on%20Athletics%2011-13-2024.mp4>.

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Labels: athletics, fund raising, politics, UC Regents

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